GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:52
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2016
Contract Labour System
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether contract labour system has been opposed by many labour unions in the country;
(b)if so, the details thereof; and
(c)the steps taken/being taken by the Government to redress their grievances?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) to (c): Contract Labour System has always remained a contentious issue for the labour unions as well as the employers. In order to protect the contract labourers from exploitation and ensure them decent work rights, Government of India enacted The Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, which provides for abolition of contract labour system upon recommendation of the Central Advisory Contract Labour Board wherever possible and practicable. In cases where contract labour system cannot be abolished altogether, the working condition of contract labour should be regulated so as to ensure payment of decent wage and basic amenities including the same wage rates, holidays, hours of work and other condition of service as applicable to regular workmen on the same or similar kind of work either of the contractor or the Principal Employer.
Contd..2/-

A well-established statutory mechanism is in place to enforce wage rights of contract labourers as stipulated in Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. The country-wide network of Deputy Chief Labour Commissioners and Regional Labour Commissioners under the control of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) is mandated to settle the complaints/claims in regard to grievances arising out of non-payment or payment of lower wages. Besides, a grievance redressal mechanism exists in the States/UTs in respect of the grievances pertaining to establishment coming under the State Sphere. The data in regard to such complaints/grievances for the year 2015-16 is as follows:
A special drive of inspections has been conducted by Chief Labour Commissioner Machinery from 15th November to 15th December focusing on unorganized sector. A total number of 9,595 inspections have been conducted in which 87,857 irregularities could be detected.

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